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number such gentlemen as may be likely to further the object of this meeting, and that any five of such committee be a quorum.

Fourth—That Mr. Wm. Lewton Clarke be appointed Secretary to the said committee.

Fifth, That it be an instruction to the said committee to correspond with all of the other Out Ports of the United Kingdom—and, as far as possible, to co-operate with them in all the measures necessary to procure the great object in view,

Sixth—That in order to create a fund for defraying the expence of such measures as may be necessary to be taken in consequence of the foregoing resolutions, a subscription be entered into, the produce of which shall be placed at the disposal of the Committee.

Seventh... That the thanks of this Meeting be given to John Loudon M'Adam, esq. for having called the attention of the Citizens of Bristol to so important an object,—for the able manner in which he has opened the business,—and for the zeal he has shewn in procuring information, which will so much facilitate the labours of the committee.

Eighth—That these resolutions be published in all the Bristol Papers, and in such other manner as the Committee shall think expedient. J. H. WILCOX, Mayor.

Ninth—The Right Worshipful the Mayor having quitted the Chair, the Thanks of the Meeting were unanimously voted to him, for his able conduct therein. and also for his kind and ready compliance with the request addressed to him for convening the Meeting.

#### PROTEST,

Entered on the journals of the House of Lords, against going into a Committee on the Bill, intituled, "an act for the more exemplary punishment of persons destroying or injuring any Stocking or Lace Frames, or other Machines or Engines used in the Knitting Manufactory,

Because,—We feel ourselves in duty bound to record our disapprobation of all further proceedings on a Bill, characterised by those who supported it, as indiscriminately inflicting the punishment of Death on all crimes described by words copied out of an Act of Parliament, which had, in no instance, the forfeiture of life in contemplation.

It was with a mixed feeling of surprise and indignation we learnt, from the dis-

cussion that has already taken place, that this Bill, in its nature the most interesting, grave, and important that can be submitted to the consideration of the Legislature, had been framed without sufficient deliberation to enable the friends of the measure to give any distinct explanation of the precise crimes to which, under the legal import of the words, thus thoughtlessly and precipitately adopted, it is proposed to extend the punishment of death.

We cannot therefore, under such circumstances, consent to go into a committee; for even the amendments which might be there proposed and adopted, would, in our opinion, disgrace the two Houses of Parliament, by recording that they are capable of rashly agreeing to the principle of a Bill thus indiscriminately and by wholesale applying capital punishment to a variety of offences, differing in their motive, their character, and their guilt;—for the purpose of considering what exceptions might subsequently be suggested by prudence and humanity, which ought exclusively to guide the judgment of the Legislature in every stage of their deliberations, on all acts of criminal legislation.

We agree in the opinion so generally expressed in this House, that the conduct of the Manufacturers, in destroying frames, and other machinery, used in our manufactures, must proceed from mistaken views of their own interests; as they, more than any other class of his Majesty's subjects, are deeply interested in the preservation of machinery, to the improvement of which we owe our existence as a manufacturing country.

But we think it our duty, strongly and in distinct terms, to reprobate the unprecedented folly of attempting to enlighten the minds of men, in regard to what is beneficial for themselves, by increased severity of punishment;—whilst every sound principle of criminal legislation makes us regard such an addition to the long list of offences, already subjected to capital punishment by the laws of this country, with astonishment and disgust;—and every feeling of humanity leads us to express the utmost horror at the wanton cruelty of punishing our fellow-creatures with death, for those culpable acts, more injurious to themselves than to any other part of the community—to which, through mistaken views of policy, the increasing distress of the times has reduced them to resort.

LAUDERDALE.  
ROSSLYN.